



Justice Programs

Alcohol and other drugs are major contributors to Utah's crime rate. More than fifty percent of violent crimes, 60-80% of child abuse and neglect cases, and 57% of theft and property crimes involve drug or alcohol use (Belenko and Peugh, 1998; National Institute of Justice, 1999). Drug use significantly increases the likelihood that an individual will engage in serious criminal conduct (Marlowe, 2003).

Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) has developed a number of innovative programs designed to address the connection between drugs and crime. Drug Court, Drug Board, CIAO and DORA strive to decrease substance use, enhance public safety and reduce recidivism by providing individualized services for the justice population.

DRUG COURTS AND DRUG BOARDS

Drug Courts offer non-violent, drug abusing offenders' intensive court-supervised drug treatment as an alternative to jail or prison. Treatment services are designed to address both substance use and criminality. There are currently thirty-two Drug Courts now operating in Utah, DSAMH provides funding for sixteen of those programs: nine adult felony drug courts, four family/dependency Drug Courts and three juvenile Drug Courts.

DSAMH also provides funding for Drug Boards which is a program that accepts parolees from the State prison system who are in need of substance abuse treatment. Parolees in jeopardy of returning to prison due to use of illicit substances are also eligible for this program. Drug Board currently serves over 178 parolees a year. Drug Courts and Drug Boards have impacted the community in the following ways:

- **Increased Employment**
 - Employment rates increased 14% between admission and discharge
 - In Uintah County, 96% of participants are employed
- **Decreased Substance Use**
 - 89% of all participants report decreased drug use
 - Over 90% of the drug tests conducted in the felony Drug Court were negative
 - 95% of the tests conducted by the Drug Board were negative
- **Reduced Recidivism:**
 - Arrests for any level of offense declined by 39%
 - 78% of participants report zero arrests while in Drug Court

CIAO

CIAO is a partnership between the Utah Department of Corrections and DSAMH. The program targets parolees and probationers with serious substance abuse issues. In the last three years, CIAO has created an assessment-driven linkage between institutional treatment, transition, community treatment and aftercare for substance abusing offenders.

DORA

The Drug Offender Reform Act (DORA) is a pilot program that requires offenders, convicted of a felony offense, to be screened and assessed for substance abuse or dependence. The result of this screening and assessment is communicated to the Court prior to sentencing. The goal of DORA is to improve Utah's response to offenders with drug addictions. Coordination occurs between the treatment provider and the agency responsible for supervising the offender. By keeping each other informed of the offender's progress, both in treatment and on supervision, a more comprehensive array of services and consequences can be leveled at the offender, thus attaining better individual outcomes.

Quick Facts:

- Over 5,000 Utahns participated or are currently participating in a Drug Court
- Drug-related arrests among those participating in Drug Court declined by 49%
- 85% of Utah's prison population has used illicit drug or alcohol prior to incarceration.
- 67% of Drug Board participants obtain full-time employment
- 85% of Drug Board participants report abstinence from alcohol
- Over 1,700 offenders have received services through CIAO
- 58% of CIAO participants have successfully completed treatment
- DORA improves Utah's response to offenders with drug addictions
- The DORA pilot creates treatment slots for a maximum of 250 participants
- Currently, DORA provides treatment to approximately 100 participants annually